

June 13, 2002

D.T.E. 02-38

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own Motion into Distributed Generation.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

On June 13, 2002, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") issued an Order opening a Notice of Inquiry into distributed generation. Distributed Generation NOI, D.T.E. 02-38. A copy of the Order, Distributed Generation NOI, is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station-2nd floor, Boston, Massachusetts for public view during normal business hours. The Order is also available on the Department's website - <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 76, the Department invites all interested persons to file comments on the following questions:

1. Refer to current distribution company interconnection standards and procedures in Massachusetts. Do these standards and procedures act as a barrier to the installation of distributed generation? If so, please describe.
 - a. If the current standards and procedures act as barriers to the installation of distributed generation, please describe what steps the Department should take to remove these barriers. As part of this response, please discuss whether the Department should establish uniform technical interconnection standards and procedures for distributed generation.
 - b. Please comment on whether the Department should adopt the IEEE's uniform technical interconnection standards, or the uniform standards adopted by other states, for use in Massachusetts.
2. Refer to current distribution company standby service tariffs. Do these tariffs act as a barrier to the installation of distributed generation? If so, please describe.
 - a. Please discuss the appropriate method for the calculation of standby or back-up rates associated with the installation of distributed generation. As part of this response, please discuss whether other states have established policies regarding back-up rates associated with distributed generation that may be appropriate for adoption in Massachusetts.
3. Please discuss the role of distributed generation with respect to the provision of reliable, least-cost distribution service by the Massachusetts distribution companies.
 - a. What steps should the distribution companies take in order to identify areas where the installation of distributed generation would be a lower-cost alternative to system upgrades and additions?

- b. What steps should the distribution companies take to encourage the installation of cost-effective distributed generation in their service territories?
- 4. What other issues are appropriate for consideration as part of the Department's investigation of distributed generation?

Initial comments should be filed by **August 1, 2002**. Reply comments should be filed by **August 15, 2002**. A public hearing regarding distributed generation will be held at the Department's offices at 10:00 a.m. on **August 21, 2002**. After the public hearing, the Department will determine what further proceedings may be appropriate.

All comments exceeding 20 pages in length must contain an executive summary. One original and ten copies of all comments should be filed with Mary Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station - 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. All written comments also should be submitted to the Department in electronic format. Electronic submissions should be made using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us and william.stevens@state.ma.us and or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 02-38), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All written pleadings or comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact William H. Stevens, Jr., Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3620.